

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 30-32 have been amended. These amendments do not add any prohibited new matter and are fully supported by the specification (*see, e.g.*, Figures 25 and 27 and page 46, line 11 to page 48, line 21 of the present specification). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants note that the Examiner has not checked the box on the Office Action Summary form acknowledging Applicants' claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Because these documents should have been sent by the International Bureau, Applicants submit that the Office is in possession of the certified priority document. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants claims of priority and receipt of the certified priority document by checking the appropriate boxes.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants initially note that claims 1-29 are currently withdrawn, in response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 5, 2007. Applicants also note the present application is a National Stage Application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/05373. Therefore, Unity of Invention provisions under PCT Rule 13.1 applies. However, in the Restriction Requirement dated June 5, 2007, Unity of Invention provisions under PCT Rule 13.1 were not applied. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the Restriction Requirement was improper. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the withdrawn claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without agreeing with or acquiescing to the objections, Applicants note that the claims have been amended, paying particular attention to the concern raised by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects independent claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Koenig (U.S. Patent No. 7,167,855, hereinafter "KOENIG"). Applicants respectfully submit that KOENIG fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, as required to set forth an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Initially, Applicants note that the claims recite (using claim 30 as a non-limiting example):

An information supply system comprising a server connected to a network and a terminal device which requests said server for information over said network,

wherein said server transmits ranked information using numeric values of specified information and weightings for said specified information to said terminal device according to a request from said terminal device, said weightings being entered from said terminal device, said information supply system comprising:

means for displaying information having a highest score of said ranked information and other information of said ranked information on a results display area of a display unit of said terminal device, each of said displayed information being concentrically arranged about said information having the highest score,

means for displaying a difference between scores of said information having the highest score and other information of said ranked information on the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device as a distance from a center of the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device, the center of the results display area being associated with the highest score, and

means for dynamically displaying a change of centered information and changes in distances of said ranked information from the center of the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device in response to changes in said weightings transmitted from said terminal device.

In contrast, KOENIG is directed to an expert matching system, in which experts and customers schedule appointments, and take surveys and courses (see, KOENIG, Abstract). For example, an expert may indicate his field of expertise and times of availability (see, KOENIG, Abstract). Customers may, in turn, indicate the type of expert they would like to consult, and their times of availability. In response, the system matches experts with customers (see KOENIG, Abstract).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of KOENIG presented in the Office Action. The Examiner maintains that col. 20, lines 57-65 of KOENIG discloses the claimed "means for displaying information while changing a distance from information located on the center in relation with a change of said weighting transmitted from said terminal device" (previously recited before the current amendments to the claims). However, Applicants submit that the cited section of KOENIG merely teaches the following:

As each section of the interview questionnaire is completed, the Requestor is presented with a display showing his entries. The interview module asks if the information is correct, or if the submitter wants to make any changes. If the Requestor indicates that changes are desired, **the system returns to the data entry form of that section of the questionnaire for any edits or modifications.** Following the completion of the questionnaire process, the Requestor has the option of requesting a printed copy of his entries. (emphasis added)

Although the system in KOENIG allows users to change information, Applicants submit that KOENIG does not dynamically display changes in the weighting of information. Specifically, KOENIG fails to disclose a "means for dynamically displaying a change of centered information and changes in distances of said ranked information from the center of the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device in response to changes in said

weightings transmitted from said terminal device,” as recited in independent claim 30 (or similarly recited in independent claims 31 and 32).

Furthermore, in contrast to the claimed invention, the results display in KOENIG is a conventional linear display of search results, as shown in Figure 8 of KOENIG (*see also* column 8, lines 62-67 of KOENIG). Thus, Applicants submit that KOENIG fails to disclose a “means for displaying a difference between scores of said information having the highest score and other information of said ranked information on the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device as a distance from a center of the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device, the center of the results display area being associated with the highest score” and a “means for dynamically displaying a change of centered information and changes in distances of said ranked information from the center of the results display area of the display unit of said terminal device in response to changes in said weightings transmitted from said terminal device,” as recited in independent claim 30 (or similarly recited in independent claims 31 and 32).

Absent a disclosure in a single reference of each and every element recited in a claim, a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot be made under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Since the applied reference fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claims 30-32, these claims can not be anticipated thereby. Applicants respectfully submit that KOENIG does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention (as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102), and, thus, respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections of claims 30-32.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 102 should be withdrawn. Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested.

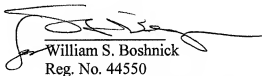
Although it is within the discretion of the Examiner to enter amendments made after a Final Office Action, Applicants submit that the amendments do not raise new issues, and should not necessitate a new search, as the claim amendments merely clarify that which was argued in the last filed response. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the present response. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability (*e.g.*, for cosmetic and/or clarification purposes and/or to render the claim terminology consistent throughout the claims), and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Authorization is hereby provided to charge any fee to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time and/or claim fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tetsuo YAMAGUCHI et al.



William S. Boshnick
Reg. No. 44550

October 29, 2008
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,450